

Medical or Health Information

Columbia State requires all applicants for admission to provide health information that, as a minimum, establishes the applicant's compliance with Rules promulgated by the Tennessee Department of Health regarding requirement for immunization against certain diseases prior to attendance at a higher education institution, and compliance with the latest standards for immunization for meningococcal disease as set forth by the recommended immunization schedule issued by the Center for Disease Control Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

Effective June 1, 2011, proof of immunization with two doses of Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) and Varicella (chickenpox) vaccines administered on or after the first birthday is required for full-time students, defined as students taking 12 hours or more of academic credits. Certain students are exempt from this requirement. Contact the Admissions office at (931)-540-2790 or www.columbiastate.edu/admissions for a current list of exemptions.

By state law (TCA § 49-6-5001), immunizations are not required if they "conflict with the parents' or guardians' (or individuals over 18) religious tenets and practices, affirmed under penalties of perjury." A *Certificate of Immunization* form (See below), completed and signed by a licensed doctor of medicine or osteopathy, or an official copy of a State Health Department or military immunization record, must be returned to the Admissions office. Students who do not provide the properly completed certificate prior to registration for their second semester will not be allowed to register until acceptable documentation is on file. Once the documentation is on file, the Records office will not issue or reproduce immunization or medical records from these agencies. Requests for this information must be directed to the issuing agency concerned.

The General Assembly of the State of Tennessee mandates that each public or private postsecondary institution in the state provide information concerning Hepatitis B infection to all first-time entering students. Tennessee law requires that such students complete a waiver form provided by the College that includes detailed information about the disease. All entering first-time students must complete this form before they will be allowed to enroll in classes.

Vaccination Exemptions

- Student born prior to January 1, 1957 **(MMR)**
- Student born prior to 1980 **(Varicella)**
- Students who graduated from a public or private high school in Tennessee in May 1999 or at any point in time thereafter **(MMR)**
- Students who attended a public or private school in Tennessee for grades kindergarten through twelve for any period of time on or after July 1, 2001 **(MMR)**
- Student who provide a signed written statement, affirmed under penalty of perjury, that their religious tenets and practices prohibit their receipt of any type of immunization (note: a parent or guardian must sign the statement of a student if under the age of 18) **(MMR and Varicella)**
- Student with written documentation from a physician certifying that they are allergic to the vaccine **(MMR and Varicella)**
- Student with written documentation from a physician attesting that they have a diagnosed case of all three diseases covered by the MMR vaccine (e.g., measles, mumps, and rubella) and/or varicella (chickenpox).
- Student with written documentation of their laboratory confirmed immunity to all three diseases covered by the MMR vaccine (e.g., measles, mumps, and rubella) and/or varicella (chickenpox).
- Students who are classified as active duty military personnel and provide proof of their active duty service. **(MMR)**
- Students who were previously enrolled as a full-time student at a TBR college or university for at least one full semester after August 1, 2007. **(MMR)**
- Students attending part-time **(MMR and Varicella)**

Second dose only verification required for full-time

- Students who graduated from a public or private Tennessee high school between May 1979 and December 1998 are required to provide proof of receipt after the date of their graduation of the second dose of the MMR vaccination if attending full-time **(MMR)**

Waiver Granted for ONE SEMESTER

- Students that are pregnant, nursing or if less than 28 days between the first and second dose of vaccine
 - *Students that have just received their first dose of MMR or the varicella vaccines and are required to wait 28 days between vaccinations must wait until specific waiver periods before a waiver will be granted*